AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and all prior versions, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

- 1. (Original) A method for fractionating polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, characterized in that the method comprises feeding a test solution in which a sample containing polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons is dissolved in a solvent to a column packed with a packing for normal phase chromatography using an eluent lowest in polarity among a plurality of eluents to be a mobile phase for the test solution unlike the solvent and to differ in polarity from each other; and then separating the polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons while allowing polar solvents to flow in ascending order of polarity.
- 2. (Currently amended) The method for fractionating polycyclic nitropolycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons according to claim 1, characterized in that the solvent in which the sample is dissolved is an alcohol; one of the plurality of eluents comprises dichloromethane; and an eluent lower in polarity than dichloromethane comprises any one of n-hexane, carbon tetrachloride and toluene.
- 3. (Currently amended) The method for fractionating polycyclic nitropolycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons according to claim 1 claims 1 and 2, characterized in that the column is a silica gel column.

Docket No. 648.46078X00 Serial No. NEW <u>May 10, 2006</u>

- 4. (Original) An apparatus for fractionating polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, characterized in that the apparatus comprises a column packed with a packing for normal phase chromatography; a solvent feeder of feeding to the column eluents to be a mobile phase for the test solution and to differ in polarity from each other; and a fractionation device of separating the solution according to the type and concentration of the solvent in the solvent feeder.
- 5. (New) The method for fractionating polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons according to claim 2, characterized in that the column is a silica gel column.